

# *The University of Kansas Paleontological Institute*

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

Lawrence, Kansas 66045

---

*Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology---University of Kansas Paleontological Contributions*

---

December 18, 1967

Dr. H. B. Stenzel  
Department of Geology  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Dear Henryk:

Thanks for your letter of November 27. It has taken me a little while to get hold of the publications you mentioned and to find time to look at them.

The amazing first sentence in the Floyd et al. paper of 1958 is, of course, patently untrue and, since the authors cite your 1944 paper, there is no excuse for it. Apart from this I don't think plagiarism is the right word. Your paper with Turner and Hesse is so much better that anybody looking for information on the subject would have to turn to it rather than the later paper which reads like a somewhat extended, yet incomplete abstract of yours.

It is quite possible that the authors of the 1958 paper never read your 1944 publication even though they cite it because the word paleoecology does not occur in your title. It has been said that much more time is now being spent on search for published information than to find new information. So, many of the younger chaps get impatient. They just don't search for existing information. They prefer to make their own "discoveries", even if these have been made six times before. This couldn't happen in physics, but it is commonplace in geology. A year or two ago somebody wrote an article in the Journal of Sedimentary Petrology announcing the discovery that wind-driven surf foam left characteristic markings on beach surfaces. It so happens that I have on my files an article in which this discovery was announced over 30 years ago. I did not take time to inform the American author, because there are too many instances of this kind.

This bothers me somewhat, because it shows that in some fields of geology research in this country is wasteful, and has been so over the past years. Instead of building on foundations laid in the

past, long known facts have been presented as new discoveries. This is true especially in facies studies, sedimentology, and paleoecology -- all with a venerable European history, but brand-new discoveries in the U.S. after World War II. The excuse, of course, is the "language barrier", though this cannot always be invoked as in the case cited by you.

Don't let it bother you too much. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours,



Curt Teichert

CT:pc